

State of California

M e m o r a n d u m

Date: May 1, 2002

To: The Commission (Meeting of May 2, 2002)

From: Commissioner Carl W. Wood
Public Utilities Commission—San Francisco -

Subject: *CR-2 – Appointment of Candidates to the Low-Income Oversight Board*

Low Income Oversight Board – Background

On October 8, 2001, Governor Davis signed SBX2 2, establishing a Low-Income Oversight Board (LIOB or Board) to advise the Commission on low-income electric and gas customer issues and to serve as a liaison for the Commission to low-income ratepayers and representatives. The LIOB replaces the Commission's Low-Income Advisory Board.

On November 20, 2001, as assigned commissioner on the low-income rulemaking proceeding (R.01-08-027), Commissioner Wood issued a ruling regarding the establishment of the Low-Income Oversight Board and requesting interested individuals to submit letters of interest and résumés.

Resolution L-299 on the May 2nd Commission Agenda adopts the Low-Income Oversight Board Charter.

LIOB and CPUC Responsibilities

As set forth in Public Utilities Code Section (§) 382.1, in order to advise the Commission, the LIOB is responsible for the following:

1. Monitor and evaluate implementation of all programs provided to low-income electricity and natural gas customers.
2. Assist in the development and analysis of any assessments of low-income electricity and gas customer need.
3. Encourage collaboration between state and utility programs for low-income electricity and gas customers to maximize the leverage of state and federal energy efficiency funds to both lower the bills and increase the comfort of low-income customers.
4. Provide reports to the Legislature, as requested, summarizing the assessment of needs, audits, and analysis of program implementation.
5. Assist in streamlining the application and enrollment process of programs for low-income electricity and natural gas customers with general low-income programs, including, but not limited to, the ULTS program.
6. Encourage the usage of the network of community service providers in accordance with

Section 381.5.

Also, Section 382(e) requires that beginning in 2002, the Commission periodically will, with the assistance of the LIOB, assess the needs of low-income electricity and natural gas ratepayers. The assessment will include an evaluation of “low-income program implementation and the effectiveness of weatherization services and energy efficiency measures in low-income households” and should consider whether “existing programs adequately address low-income electricity and natural gas customers’ energy expenditures, hardship, language needs and economic burdens.” The Legislature requires that the Commission use the needs assessment to maximize efficient delivery of its weatherization programs.

Section 382.1(e) requires that the Commission:

1. Work with the Board, interested parties and community-based organizations to increase participation in low-income programs.
2. Provide technical support to the Board.
3. Work with the Board to ensure that the energy burden of low-income electricity and natural gas customers is reduced.
4. Provide formal notice of Board meetings on the Commission’s daily calendar.

Recommended Candidates.

Section 382.1(b) requires that the Commission select or identify the nine members of the LIOB from the following groups:

Number of Representatives	Type or Category of Representation
1	Representative of the Governor
1	Representative of the California Department of Community Services and Development
1	CPUC Commissioner or Commissioner designee
1	Representative of an electric or natural gas utility
1	Representative of private weatherization contractors

4	<p>Persons who:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Have expertise in the low-income community• Are not affiliated with any state or utility group• Must be selected to ensure an equitable geographic distribution
---	---

Commissioner Carl Wood and Linda Serizawa interviewed 18 public representative candidates in March and April 2002 as well as 3 utility representatives and 2 candidates representing private weatherization contractors. Below are the recommended candidates for the Board's various representations.

Utility Representative

Yolanda Whiting, Director of Consumer Programs and Services
Southern California Gas Company and San Diego Gas & Electric Company

Private Weatherization Contractor Representative

George Sanchez, Jr., Chief Operations Officer
Richard Heath & Associates, Inc.

Representatives from the Public

Ortensia Lopez, Executive Director
El Concilio of San Mateo County

Paul C. White, Assistant Executive Director
Fresno County Economic Opportunities Commission

Maria Juarez, Deputy Director
Department of Community Action, Riverside County

Alan H. Woo, Director of Planning and Program Development
Orange County Community Development Council